

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please replace the original claims with the following amended claims:

1. (Currently amended) A razor blade cartridge comprising:  
a plastic body including a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a series of integrally formed guard ribs extending between the leading and trailing edges thereof, said guard ribs being formed from the same material as said body; and  
one or more cutting blades having portions encompassed by said guard ribs of said plastic body, each said cutting blade including a cutting edge facing the leading edge of said plastic body, wherein one or more of said guard ribs cover the cutting edge of at least one of said cutting blades.
2. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs are spaced apart from one another.
3. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs are evenly spaced apart from one another.
4. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs overlie the cutting edge of at least one of said cutting blades.
5. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs project beyond the cutting edge of at least one of said cutting blades.
6. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a guard bar at the leading edge of said plastic body.
7. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein said guard bar comprises a series of depressions formed at an upper surface thereof.

8. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 7, wherein each said depression in said guard bar includes a projection substantially centered therein.

9. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a cap at the trailing edge of said plastic body.

10. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a lubricating strip attached to said cap.

11. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said one or more cutting blades are substantially parallel to one another and to the leading and trailing edges of said plastic body.

12. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 11, wherein said guard ribs are substantially perpendicular to said one or more cutting blades.

13. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs have non-uniform dimensions.

14. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs have uniform dimensions.

15. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs comprise a center guard rib and at least one pair of guard ribs on opposing sides of said center guard rib.

16. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs comprise a center guard rib having a first dimension and a pair of outer guard ribs having a second dimension that is smaller than the center guard rib.

17. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 16, wherein the center guard rib has a length that is greater than the length of the outer guard ribs.

18. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the center guard rib has a height that is greater than the height of the outer guard ribs.

19. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 16, wherein said guard ribs further comprise a pair of intermediate guard ribs disposed between the center guard rib and the outer guard ribs, and wherein the intermediate guard ribs have a dimension that is smaller than the first dimension of the center guard rib.

20. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 19, wherein the intermediate guard ribs have a dimension that is greater than the second dimension of the outer guard ribs.

21. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 20, wherein the intermediate guard ribs have a length that is greater than the length of the outer guard ribs.

22. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 21, wherein the intermediate guard ribs have a height that is greater than the height of the outer guard ribs.

23. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said series of guard ribs comprise a center guard rib having a first length and a pair of intermediate guard ribs on opposing sides of said center guard rib, said pair of intermediate guard ribs having a length that is less than the first length of said center guard rib.

24. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 23, wherein said guard ribs further comprise a pair of outer guard ribs on opposing sides of said intermediate

guard ribs, and wherein said outer guard ribs have a length that is less than the length of said intermediate guard ribs.

25. (Withdrawn) A razor blade cartridge comprising:

a cartridge body including a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a series of guard ribs integrally connected with said cartridge body and extending between the leading and trailing edges thereof; and

cutting blades disposed in said cartridge body, said cutting blades being substantially parallel to one another, each said cutting blade including a cutting edge facing the leading edge of said cartridge body, wherein said guard ribs at least partially cover the cutting edges of said cutting blades.

26. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 25, wherein said guard ribs are evenly spaced apart from one another.

27. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 25, wherein said cutting blades extend in a direction substantially perpendicular to said guard ribs.

28. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 25, wherein said guard ribs comprise a center guard rib and a pair of outer guard ribs on opposing sides of said center guard rib.

29. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 28, further comprising a pair of intermediate guard ribs on opposing sides of said center guard rib, wherein said intermediate guard ribs are disposed between said center guard rib and said outer guard ribs.

30. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 25, wherein said guard ribs have a substantially uniform dimension.

31. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 25, wherein said guard ribs have a substantially non-uniform dimension.

32. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 31, wherein said center guard rib has a first dimension and said pair of outer guard ribs have a second dimension that is smaller than the first dimension of said center guard rib.

33. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 32, wherein said pair of intermediate guard ribs have a dimension that is smaller than the first dimension of said center guard rib.

34. (Withdrawn) The cartridge as claimed in claim 33, wherein the dimension of said pair of intermediate guard ribs is larger than the second dimension of said outer guard ribs.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of making a razor blade comprising:  
providing a mold for making a razor blade cartridge;  
securing at least one cutting blade having a cutting edge in the mold;  
introducing a moldable plastic material into said mold to form a plastic cartridge body encompassing said at least one cutting blade, wherein said plastic cartridge body includes a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a series of guard ribs integrally molded with said plastic body and extending between the leading and trailing edges thereof, wherein said at least one cutting blade includes a cutting edge facing toward the leading edge of said plastic body, and wherein one or more of said guard ribs cover the cutting edge of said at least one cutting blade.

36. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said guard ribs and said plastic body are formed substantially simultaneously in the mold.

37. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the step of securing at least one cutting blade includes securing three cutting blades in said mold so that said three cutting blades are substantially parallel to one another, and wherein the cutting edges of said cutting blades face in the same direction.

38. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said guard ribs overlie the cutting edge of said at least one cutting blade.

39. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said guard ribs project beyond the cutting edge of said at least one cutting blade.

40. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising securing a guard bar to the leading edge of said plastic cartridge body.